Financial year	Items of expenditure from the Regimental Fund	
1987-88	(i) Greeting Cards	85.00
	(ii) Cadet Journal	198.00
	(iii) News papers	71.90
	(iv) Stationery	19.00
	(v) Conveyance for cadets	27.00
	(vi) Refreshments for cadets and important visitors	981.00
	(vii) Prizes for cadets	26.00
	TOTAL :	1407.90

Meeting of Standing Committee of Saarc at Kathmando

4417. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) whether India at the tenth Standing Committee meeting of the SAARC members held in Kathmandu on the 10th August, 1988 had called upon the SAARC members to tackle some core economic sectors within SAARC review ;

(b) if so, what was the precise proposal mooted by Indian representative therein; and

(c) what was the response of the SAARC Committee thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) While no specific proposal was put forward, the Foreign Secretary, in his general statement at the Tenth Session of the Standing Committee, emphasised that core economic sectors such as trade, industry, money and finance must form the basic foundation of regional cooperation.

(c) The Standing Committee has not yet decided to include core economic sectors in the areas of cooperation under SAARC.

Pakistan proposal for N-Free South-Asia Zone at Kathmandu SAARC Meeting

4418. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan, at the recent SAARC meeting in Kathmandu, has pleaded for a N-Free South-Asia zone;

(b) if so, what was the precise proposal made out by Pakistan; and

(c) what was the India's reaction thereto in the conference and outside the conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) In his general statement at the Fifth Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers in Kathmandu on August 11-12—1988 the Pakistan Foreign Minister made a suggestion for a regional undertaking never to develop, acquire or deploy nuclear weapons in South Asia.

(c) The suggestion was not taken up for discussion. India's position in SAARC has been that this is a contentious political issue and cannot therefore figure in SAARC deliberations.

Programmes for Amelioration of weaker sections of the Society

4419. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether programmes for amelioration of weaker section of the society and eradication of poverty are proposed to be reoriented for implementation under the Eighth Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the details of the reorientation contemplated in respect of these programmes ; and

(c) the target, fixed for eradication of poverty ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI):

(a) and (b) The exercises relating to formulation of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1990-95) have just started and hence, specific details about strategy for implementation of programmes referred to in the question cannot be given.

(c) The Seventh Plan sets the target of reducing the number of persons below poverty line to 5 percent by 2000A.D.

Red Cross Personnel Killed/Injured in Sri Lanka

4420. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Red Cross volunteers/officers have been killed or injured in Sri Lanka in connection with the IPKF operations during the recent months ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto including that by way of compensation to the victims or their families ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) (a) and (b) On the 4th August, 1988, a Red Cross jeep going from Kankesanturai to Mullaitivu was belown up by a landmine planted by the LTTE. The driver was killed on the spot and Mr. Gurmukh Singh and Dr. Katyal, officers of the Indian Red Cross, were seriously wounded. They were evacuated by the IPKF to a nearby hospital, where Mr. Gurmukh Singh succumbed to his injuries.

(c) Government deplores this wanton killing of Red Cross personnel on a humanitarian mission in Sri Lanka. The question of compensation is a matter which concerns the Indian Red Cross Society but Government understand that this is receiving sympathetic consideration.

Attacks on Hindus/Buddhists in Bangladesh

4421. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been large-scale attacts on the lives of Hindus and Buddhists in Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to discuss this issue with the Bangladesh Government ?